



WE HAVE EXPANDED OUR REACH – TO DISTINGUISHED DISTRICT

by Darryle Brown, MBA, DTM, Immediate Past District Director



Congratulations District 26! You made your District one of the best in the organization. Together, we all set out on a journey to achieve strategic goals, targets and focus under the rallying cry of “Expanding Our Reach”. We achieved every goal we set out to accomplish in active clubs, payments and distinguished clubs. The biggest praise for our District’s success goes to every member who achieved advancements in their self-development as communicators and leaders. Individual success is a group effort just as much as group success results from individual effort.

Throughout the year, we emphasized three elements that enabled our district leadership to work in tandem with each other to serve you. They were relationship, knowledge, and empowerment. The District’s business culture changed as a result, with greater connections between leaders and members at every level, the building of community between clubs and the level of support between toastmasters elevating exponentially this year.

There were so many success stories where Team G (Growth) led by Club Growth Director Marcia Wood expanded our reach in relationship by virtue of the highest recruitment effort of Club Sponsors, Mentor and Coaches in years; enabling nearly every club needing support to thrive. Our remarkable team of Area Directors reconnected many clubs back with the District. These clubs may not have actively participated in contests, training, or other District-level events in years or ever; but we were able to reach out and connect.

The learning culture and degrees of knowledge within District 26 this year were exceptional with 45 Triple Crown Award recipients and 10 clubs with the highest education awards in the District per 7/1 base membership. Five of those clubs submitted an exceptional amount of educational awards consisting of ten or more in a year. With the level of enthusiasm displayed by our District in its learning culture, we will be well prepared to transition into the new education program known as Pathways as it rolls out in the next year.

The biggest paradigm shift occurring in the District’s culture is in the degree of empowerment of the Area and Division Directors working in tandem with each other to help every club achieve their goals. They became the more visible face of the District, providing guidance and direction to their clubs, while creating a new energy in many of the clubs eager to embrace change. This resulted in 90 clubs achieving Distinguished or better, leaving us one club shy of President’s Distinguished in the District’s overall success goals. In the midst of this new fire, rapid growth occurred with 21 newly chartered clubs in the District, requiring the creation of the new Urban Division to accommodate current and future expansion.

All of these successes (and many more would require multiple pages to cover) resulted in District 26 achieving Distinguished District once again. Very special thanks go to two great executives serving with great honor and distinction, our Program Quality Director Rhea Thompson and Club Growth Director Marcia Wood. Their high caliber talent, drive, and enthusiasm created an atmosphere of vision and promise that rallied this remarkable District to expand their reach within and outside of the District to take us to the top. As your District Director, I am honored to have served and lead all of you to the best of my ability as a role model, fellow Toastmaster, and friend during this fun filled year which brought me a strong degree of pride and joy. I raise my glass to you all to your continued success as leaders and communicators, as I leave you in good hands with Rhea and the new District Trio. Let us go to the International Convention to see District 26 be recognized as one of the organizations very best. You earned it because you all helped us Expand Our Reach!

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Check the District Calendar
For District Events

OPEN, Dialogue Editor

D26 LEADERS

Rhea Thompson, District Director
Marcia Wood, Program Quality Director
Mark Krekeler, Club Growth Director
Marieta Ferrington, Public Relations Manager
Cynthia Cunningham, Administration Manager
Katrina Johnson, Finance Manager
Linda Rhea, Club Coach Chair
Colette Smith, Club Retention Chair
Greg Harris, Webmaster
Alexander Pyle, Technology Lead
OPEN, Speakers Bureau Chairs
Lori High, Quality Events Chair

DIVISION DIRECTORS

listed alphabetically by Division

Carolyn Conover, Denver
May Tran, Eastern
Laria Lovec, Foothills
Howard Levine, Metro
Janice Haldi, Northern
Victoria Cox, Southern
Joy Davidson, Urban

MISSION STATEMENTS

Toastmasters International Mission: We empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders.

District Mission: We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence.

Club Mission: We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

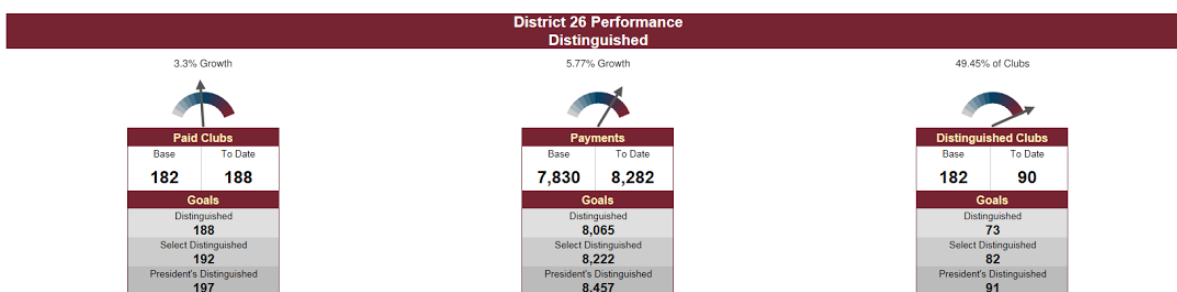
d26toastmasters.org / facebook.com/d26toastmasters  / 

DISTINGUISHED DISTRICT AGAIN

District 26 has reached Distinguished District for the second time in the last three Toastmaster years and once again our leadership team and every District 26 member will get to march across the International Convention stage this August in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Marcia Wood, District Club Growth Director led Team G and with the strong support of our leadership teams from the Trio down to Area Directors and the numerous volunteers spurred a record number of 21 new chartered clubs.

District 26 has never been about the Trio, which is comprised of the District Director, Program Quality Director, and Club Growth Director, but everyone who is a member of District 26 Toastmasters. What we do at the club level all the way to every event in the District leads to our accomplishments.

During the year, we saw more and more clubs step up and enter contests, we saw clubs reaching out to other clubs to provide support and leadership, and we saw our members embrace the theme of Expanding Our Reach.



The graph above shows our current ranking as of July 6, 2017; however, these numbers could change. As you can see, we are four paid clubs away from Select Distinguished and one Distinguished club away from President's Distinguished.

District 26 is located in Region 1 where we ranked first in Distinguished Clubs and second in paid clubs and membership. Toastmasters worldwide saw District 26 in the Top 20 in membership at 18, while ranking 35th in paid clubs and 48th in Distinguished clubs.

Together, as our Immediate Past District Director stated as his theme for the year, District 26 excelled in Expanding Our Reach. The new leadership team will continue to build on this as we move into a new Toastmaster Year.

Congratulations to everyone in District 26 for their efforts and special thanks to our District leadership team.





A message from your District Director, Rhea Thompson, DTM

RAISING THE BAR

Welcome to a year of new opportunities! Each year at this time, as Toastmasters, we get the chance to review what we accomplished during the last year. We get to pat ourselves on the back for a job well done and consider what we might do different/better this year.

Ho hum, yawn. We might be thinking, “I’m perfectly happy and comfortable with where I am. Why upset the apple cart?” Comfort is nice, but boring. Challenge is uncomfortable but rewarding! Are we comfortable in our position within our club? Maybe it is time for a change. Maybe it is time to “**raise the bar**” in our personal leadership growth.

How can we do this? Contest season will soon be here, what about being the club Contest Chair? Okay, done that, been there. What is next?

What about outside the four walls of our club? Club Officer Training sessions are now being scheduled through August 31, 2017. Why not help our Area Director schedule and host a Club Officer Training Session to train those club officers, perhaps in our own club as well as in sister clubs near us? We could stretch our leadership skills by working with those we do not know and, along the way, build lasting relationships!

The possibilities are endless. Was our club one that did not reach “Distinguished” status last year? What can we do to help this year? Have we given a speech recently? Are we using the Competent Leadership manual to track our meeting roles?

Let us all lead with excellence, set an example for others to follow and “raise the bar” in our personal lives!

A message from your Program Quality Director, Marcia Wood, DTM



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

What a long, strange year it’s been! I want to thank the Team G members who have made this year glorious!

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chyrese Exline, District Club Retention Chair• Tina Hubis, Denver Division Extension Coordinator• Chrys Withrow, Eastern Club Extension Coordinator• Amber Clark, Foothills Club Extension Coordinator• Cynthia Schuller, Metro Club Extension Coordinator• Dana Morgan Barnes, Northern Club Extension Coordinator | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bobby Olsen, Denver Club Retention Coordinator• Paula Cowen, Eastern Club Retention Coordinator• Colette Smith, Foothills Club Retention Coordinator• Dave Dawson, Northern Club Retention Coordinator• Patty Saunders, Southern Club Retention Coordinator |
|--|---|

Without these valued Team G members, we could not have achieved our District goal of Distinguished District! When you have an opportunity to speak to these people, please say thank you for their valued service to District 26! I would also like to note how important a role the late Kathy Schneebeck Dulnoan played in the success of this year.

I also want to thank the many volunteers who helped with 21 kickoff meetings for new Toastmasters clubs. Our kickoff meetings lead the way for clubs to successfully charter. This image on the next page was taken at Leprino Foods kickoff in October 2016. The club chartered in December and is going strong!



The District chartered 21 new clubs this year — a record number! Also by end of year, June 30, 2017, District 26 had achieved:

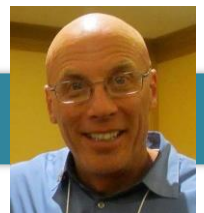
- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 club mentors appointed • 38 club sponsors appointed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 club coaches appointed • 10 successful club coaches who helped their clubs become distinguished. |
|---|--|

These are my memories which I will hold dear for many years. Thank you to all the volunteers in District 26 who helped make a difference! Now it is your turn. How will you make a difference? Plan, visualize, achieve!

District 26 members had some fun on November 5 at the newly announced World Headquarters for Toastmasters International. The move from California will happen in September 2018.



A Message from your Club Growth Director, Mark Krekeler, ACG, ALB



HERE WE GO!!!

A new Toastmaster year is underway with new goals and new challenges. We are looking for new ways to learn growth, leadership, and to find out just what it is we are made of. I have been in Toastmasters since 2004 and spent the first 10 years giving speeches and holding club officer positions, thinking “wow, I am doing great.” But in reality, I still did not understand what Toastmasters was all about. I never visited [Toastmasters International's website](#) nor had I looked into what was happening on our [D26 Toastmaster's website](#). I simply thought it was not for me.

It is funny how we avoid things we do not understand. And I did. I really do not recall what prompted me to do so, but I changed course. Four years ago, my first step was to began to attending District conferences. Just attending allowed me to meet so many wonderful fellow Toastmasters. I have noticed many Toastmasters rarely venture out of the safety of their own club, but I can personally tell you there is a whole other beautiful world to those willing to do so.

I learned two important ways to improve myself.

- First, if someone asks, say yes and ask questions later.
- Second, if no one asks, go to someone who makes decisions, and say yes, I will. Whatever that is.

For me my first step was with an Area contest where I was the Toastmaster. Then I began to co-chair contests, I stepped into an Area Director role, then I was chairing the Toastmaster Leadership Institute training session and finally, I am taking a HUGE step as being the new District Club Growth Director. This means I am following in the footsteps of the most productive Club Growth Director, Marcia Wood, that our District has seen in many years.

Saying yes. Stepping up. Doing the small things when asked. By doing these things, really means finding out what you are made of and becoming a leader. Remember when someone asks you, say yes!



AP Toastmasters Charter Celebration in Aurora, Colorado



Rock Springs Raconteurs Charter Celebration in Rock Springs, Wyoming



WorldView Toastmasters Charter Celebration in Westminster, Colorado

HEADS UP DISTRICT 26

CHARTER PARTIES

In June 2017, the District celebrated the following charter parties.

- Rock Springs Raconteurs June 1, 2017
- AP Toastmasters June 15, 2017
- WorldView Toastmasters Club June 23, 2017

The following clubs chartered during June 2017

- Empowering Great Speakers
- Speech Masters Advanced Club

- Real People Real Talk

The following clubs will have their charter celebrations in July 2017

- Toastmasters of VFW Post 1
- Speaking Under Pressure
- ANM Speaks
- PWC Toastmasters

EARN YOUR SMEDLEY AWARD

Clubs can earn a Smedley Award ribbon for their club banners by recruiting five new members during the period August 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

If you have any interest in becoming the new District Dialogue editor, please contact Rhea Thompson, or any member of the trio.

USE YOUR CALENDAR

All District 26 Toastmasters can coordinate their personal schedule with the District 26 calendar. So when you are looking for what is happening in District 26, look to the [District Calendar](#).

DISTRICT OFFICER TRAINING SCHEDULE

Parker Toastmasters Club Officer Training

Open to All Clubs

When: Thursday, July 20, 2017 (6:45pm-8:45pm)

Where: Southeast Christian Church,
9650 Jordan Road, Parker

Description: Parking available in Church parking lot

Set Up: 6pm / Registration: 6:30pm / Training: 6:45pm

Contact: Metro Division Director, Howard Levine,
DivM1718@D26Leaders.org 480-269-1467

Cheyenne Club Officer Training

When: Saturday, July 22, 2017 (8:30am - 12:15pm)

Where: Laramie County Community College,
1400 E College Drive, Cheyenne

Description: ARP building (north side of campus)

Registration: 8:30am / Training: 9:15am-11:45am /
Review/announcements: 11:45am-12:15pm

Contact: Dana Morgan-Barnes, DTM, PDG 307-220-1109

Grand Junction Club Officer Training

When: Saturday, July 29, 2017 (9:00am - 12:30pm)

Where: HopeWest Care Center
3090 North 12th Street, Grand Junction

Description: Room 102

DIALOGUE SUBMISSION PROTOCOLS

The Dialogue is open to any Toastmaster in District 26 to submit an article. Remember this is your newsletter; however please limit your word count to 250 words. We would also like a picture of either you or the event. The deadline for the August issue will be July 15, 2017.

MEMBER RECOGNITION CORNER

By Jennifer Costello, DTM, District 26 Administrative Manager



The District 26 leadership team is proud to recognize the following members for their achievements so far this Toastmaster year. Congratulations to all Toastmasters who have earned an educational award since June 15, 2017.

Competent Communicator

John Markham
Alan Swartz
Bradley Beck
Amelia Hart
Suzy Lewis
Chadd Spencer
Mislav Horvatic
Rheid Schloss
David Ballard
Jason Miller
Catherine Rice
Jason Poitras
Andrea Fitch
Livia Camargo
David Liebrandt
Sarah Ohle
Fred Sumner
Jennifer Lopez
Mario Duran
Cecilia Kramer
Lauren Pickens
Christopher Staples
Teresa Ann Beemer

Eric Vaughn Robinson
James Brost
Jillian Gibson
Eddie Hafner
Katie Cloyd
Jessica Haycraft
Greg Davis
Margaret Mizushima
David Olson
Kathy Janak
Lauren Wilson
Michael Blasie
Paula Cowen
Lisa Raville
Rebecca Cohen
Joyce Feustel
Linda Rinehart
Pamela Oliver
Dennis Ryan
Matt Plummer
Joette Bailey
Elizabeth Bukovsky
Linda Fellion

Kyoko Day
Alexander Clare
Laura Amundson
Stuart Siffring
Timothy Hardesty
Dana Morgan Barnes
Diana Hutchinson
Sean Hammervold
Ann Kerr
Zhijun Liu
Suzanne Muller-Heinz
Marcia Wood
Christi Whaley
Laura Lasater
Lydia Labelle
John Barnes (2)
Katherine Blom
Marques Brewer
Petr Valkoun
Bryan Cook
Mary Peck
Mary Watson
John Marlow

Competent Leader

Sean Hammervold
Loree Beamer
Jerome Kirkpatrick
Mislav Horvatic
Alison Brinkley
Allison Suerdick
Erin Bryant
Jonathan Johnson
Laurie Tomac
Adelina Herrera
Sephra Baca
Chris Bolling

Rita Mohler
Timothy Lenz
Anthony Mincer
Eric Doner
Deedee Lake
Jean Walter
George Kotsaftis
Rodney Cole (2)
Dagmar Kollar
Paula Cowen
Richard Barrett
Margaret Mizushima

Melissa McMurphy
Robbi Katz
Sanjeev Yadav
Leanne Schmidt
Mark West
James Freeman
Carrie Noonan
Marcia Wood
Carey Westover
Marques Brewer
Jennifer Winters
Suzy Lewis





Advanced Communicator Bronze

Sam Shada
Sherrie Evans
Monica Miller
Carol Baum
Shelly Phillips
George Bradley

Troy Steadman
Marta Welch
Allison Suerdick
Shirley Chan
Kenneth Guentert
Thomas Christopher

Rebecca Kallio
Patricia Saunders
Laura Mayerl
Heidi Thomas
Tammy O'Keefe
Linda Hougham

Advanced Leader Bronze

Ann Bernadette-Paneitz
Jennifer de Jarnette
Jill Kolodzne

Kevin Whaley
Joseph Costello
Ann Kerr

Patricia Coffey
Marcia Wood

Advanced Communicator Silver

Ignacio Correa-Ortiz
Ronald Pritchett
May Tran
Steven Headstream
Craig Hafer

Charlotte Greene
Christopher Hutchinson (2)
Louise Watson
John Donnellon
Carolyn Conover

David Mead
Michelle LaGary
Brian Fuller
Ruth Ere
John Barnes

Advanced Leader Silver

Stacey Williams

Carlos Diaz

Excellence in Leadership

Katrina Johnson
Carol Pace
Mary Watson
Linda Marsolek

Carol Banks
Melanie Smith
Robert Case
Jennifer Klein

Patricia Moore
Howard Levine

Advanced Communicator Gold

Kathy Barrett
Gordon Savage

Susan Horst
Pamela Larkin

Ronald Pierre
Mark Krekeler



Distinguished Toastmaster

Victoria Cox

Alan Swartz

Carlos Diaz

Triple Crown

Kathy Barrett
Richard Barrett
Ann Bernadette-Paneitz
Joseph Costello
Jennifer de Jarnette
John Donnellon

Judy Hensley
Christopher Hutchinson
Allison Suerdieck
Alan Swartz
Stacey Williams
John Barnes

Laura Mayerl
Mary Watson
Marcia Wood
Patricia Saunders

CLUB RECOGNITION CORNER

by Jennifer Costello, DTM, District 26 Administrative Manager



Congratulations to the following clubs for achieving the most educational awards through May 14, 2017:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • BodyShops Club | 21 Educational Awards |
| • Words Worth Speaking | 20 Educational Awards |
| • Front Range Toastmasters | 16 Educational Awards |



The District 26 leadership would like to join in the celebration and congratulate the following clubs for reaching milestone anniversaries.

June

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Gates to Excellence Toastmasters: | 50 th Anniversary |
| • High Plains Club: | 30 th Anniversary |
| • Boulder Speakeasy: | 20 th Anniversary |
| • Black Canyon Voices: | 5 th Anniversary |
| • Proudly Speaking: | 5 th Anniversary |

Welcome to District 26! These clubs chartered during June 2017.

- Empowering Great Speakers
- Speech Masters Advanced Club
- Real People Real Talk



DARRYLE BROWN IMMEDIATE PAST DISTRICT DIRECTOR

In pictures

